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Bachelor Thesis

Role of Networked Technologies in Facilitating and Combating Human Trafficking

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Role of Networked Technologies in Facilitating and Combating Human Trafficking

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Objectives of thesis

The main objective of this bachelor thesis is to understand how networked technologies can facilitate and combat human trafficking. Substantial work is essential to assess the scope to which human trafficking is facilitated and combated by technology. For that, I have kept two goals as per the following:

1. Assess the role of technology in increasing the capacity/filtration of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
2. Outline the possibilities if networked technologies can be used to detect and prevent the demand side of sex trafficking and exploitation.

Methodology

Various analyses will be carrying out to understand how networked technologies – here, it includes cell phones, social media, and the internet – facilitate and counter human trafficking. The goal of this study is to understand the impact of technology on human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which will be fulfilled by analyzing data sets, polls, questionnaires, interviews, and personal experiences. There will be two analyses. A systematic qualitative study will be performed to determine whether technologies enable trade of human beings. And then, a comparative study of different technology tools will be carried out to assess networked solutions: efficacy in fighting exploitation, their pervasive capability, and ability to spread information and help victims. Each of these analyses has the potential to shed more insight on the overall networked technologies, as well as their ability to combat and facilitate human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

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Prague on 23. 03. 2020

Declaration

I declare that I have worked on my bachelor thesis titled "**Role of Networked Technologies in Facilitating and Combating Human Trafficking**" by myself and I have used only the sources mentioned at the end of the thesis. As the author of the bachelor thesis, I declare that the thesis does not break copyrights of any their person.

In Prague on 23/03/2020 _____

Acknowledgement

Role of Networked Technologies in Facilitating and Combating Human Trafficking

Abstract

The exploitation of human beings is a highly lucrative business for organized criminal groups. It is an illicit market that affects millions of people worldwide. With traffickers making an estimated $150 billion a year, human trafficking deprives people of their dignity and basic rights. Networked technologies – including cell phones, social media, and the internet – are altering the landscape of this illicit business by changing how information flows and how people communicate. The impact of this phenomenon is mixed. On one hand, technology makes many aspects of human trafficking more visible and more traceable. Yet, on the other, technology has also made the facilitation of sexual exploitation of human trafficking victims far easier for criminal networks. For instance, human traffickers are increasingly leveraging the internet and cell phones to attract buyers of trafficking victims, making the selling of sex more seamless (Pundina, 2013).

There is a dearth of sound data on this emerging phenomenon and subsequently little is known about the real costs and benefits of technology's role. For example, we do not know if there are more human trafficking victims as a result of technology, nor do we know if law enforcement can better identify perpetrators as a result of the technological traces they leave. Moreover, technology is spreading, and cell phones are reaching into the far corners of developing countries such as India where human trafficking is rampant. Thus, what is imperative is that we understand the role that it plays to develop innovative ways of using technology and learn to harbor this proliferation of technology as it is an important source for fighting back.

This study explores the role of networked technologies in facilitating and combating human trafficking through surveys, questionnaires, interviews and explores two overarching aspects of human trafficking – how technology facilitates this crime and how technology is being used to combat it. The goal is to reach a deeper understanding of the problem and with this knowledge, explore the most effective resources and tools that can combat trafficking in light of this research's findings.

Keywords:

Úloha Propojených Technologií Při Usnadňování a Potírání Obchodování s Lidmi

Abstrakt

Vykořisťování lidských bytostí je pro organizované zločinecké skupiny velmi lukrativním obchodem. Je to nedovolený trh, který postihuje miliony lidí na celém světě. Když obchodníci s lidmi vydělají odhadem 150 miliard dolarů ročně, obchodování s lidmi zbavuje lidi jejich důstojnosti a základních práv. Síťové technologie - včetně mobilních telefonů, sociálních médií a internetu - mění krajinu tohoto nezákonného podnikání změnou způsobu toku informací a způsobu, jakým lidé komunikují. Dopad tohoto jevu je smíšený. Na jedné straně technologie dělá mnoho aspektů obchodování s lidmi viditelnějšími a sledovatelnějšími. Na druhé straně technologie také usnadnila sexuální vykořisťování obětí obchodování s lidmi pro zločinecké sítě. Například obchodníci s lidmi stále více využívají internet a mobilní telefony, aby přilákali kupce obětí obchodování s lidmi, čímž se prodej sexu zvýší (Pundina, 2013).

O tomto vznikajícím jevu je nedostatek zvukových dat a o skutečných nákladech a výhodách role technologie je známo jen málo. Nevíme například, zda je v důsledku technologie více obětí obchodování s lidmi, ani nevíme, zda donucovací orgány mohou lépe identifikovat pachatele v důsledku technologických stop, které odcházejí. Technologie se navíc šíří a mobilní telefony sahají až do nejvzdálenějších koutů rozvojových zemí, jako je Indie, kde nedochází k obchodování s lidmi. Proto je naprosto nezbytné, abychom pochopili roli, kterou hraje při vývoji inovativních způsobů používání technologie a naučili se skrývat toto šíření technologií, protože je důležitým zdrojem pro boj proti zpětnému rázu.

Tato studie zkoumá úlohu síťových technologií při usnadňování a potírání obchodování s lidmi prostřednictvím průzkumů, dotazníků, rozhovorů a zkoumá dva zastřešující aspekty obchodování s lidmi - jak technologie tento zločin usnadňuje a jak se k boji proti němu používá. Cílem je dosáhnout hlubšího pochopení problému a s těmito znalostmi prozkoumat nejúčinnější zdroje a nástroje, které mohou bojovat proti obchodování s lidmi na základě zjištění tohoto výzkumu.

Klíčová slova: Obchodování s lidmi, síťové technologie, usnadnění, boj, uživatelé internetu, obchodování s lidmi, prodej, nelegální.

Table of content

Introduction

Technologies such as mobile phones, the Internet and social networking sites, are rapidly changing the way that information flows and how people communicate. The World Bank estimates that 75% of the global population has access to a mobile phone and mobile communications. In fact, mobile phones ability to provide real-time communication and coordination from anywhere in the world is being exploited by traffickers to extend the reach of their criminal activities. According to representative from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-International (CATW), "Trafficking, and especially sex trafficking, relies heavily on recent technological advances. The Internet made it easier and safer (anonymity) for traffickers to advertise and sell women and children online".

Specifically, advancements in technology have created new online platforms for recruitment such as Facebook where human traffickers are increasingly leveraging these networks to attract buyers, recruit, advertise and communicate, which creates a more seamless criminal enterprise. The Internet and social networking also facilitate trafficking as those who are most vulnerable can be more easily identified and targeted. Furthermore, an emerging find is that transactions are increasingly being conducted over cellular phones according to Mark Latonero, author of "The Rise of Mobile and the Diffusion of Technology-Facilitated Trafficking". Logistical information including the, "time, place, pricing, and types of services are communicated through phone calls or text messages on mobile phones". Also, as more websites develop mobile applications, the posting of advertisements as well as viewing and responding to them, can be completed primarily through mobile phones.

On the other side of the equation, understanding the role that mobile, Internet and social networking technology plays is imperative to combatting it. For instance, Linda Taffe, who interviewed 22 different sources to write the article, Tech heavyweights take on Human Trafficking with Big Data states, Microsoft and Google have developed "scanning" technology that the anti-trafficking coalitions are using to scan millions of images. In fact, Microsoft runs a lab for law enforcement agencies to assist in the anti-trafficking efforts. Previously, if just one pixel was changed in a photo, it was difficult to make a match. With new software, the program can match images even when there are pixel changes.

Research shows that about 80 percent of the teens use online social networking sites where anonymous predators and the popularity of online networking have made it difficult for authorities to combat sex trafficking. Research says, "Pimps are preying on teens on social networking sites and is one of the biggest changes in that kind of crime in five-to-ten years". Before, pimps would go to bus stops or malls to recruit troubled teens one at a time and now, this has changed take place on a digital platform.

Indeed, these spreading communication networks may present a transformation in how to effectively combat trafficking for law enforcement, NGOs and private companies. Data gathered from cell phones and mobile networks provide, "Information and evidence that can be a powerful tool in identifying, tracking, and prosecuting traffickers". Mobile technologies can also assist in helping to reach the more susceptible populations to trafficking and raise awareness. With the number of cellular phones growing in less developed regions, this can have profound implications. For example, according to the World Bank, Sub-Saharan Africa is now home to approximately, "650 million mobile phone subscribers, a number that surpasses the United States and European Union, and represents an explosion of new communication technologies that are being tailored to the developing world". Remarkably, "More people have access to the internet today in Africa than they do to clean water, or even sanitation and more than two-thirds of African adults now have access to Information and Communications Technologies, or ICTs."

Thus, the impact of this proliferation on human trafficking is mixed. On the one hand, technology allows human trafficking to be more discernible and more traceable. Yet, on the other, technology facilitates human trafficking. To this end, numerous questions remain unanswered and evidence-based research is essential to comprehend the scope of the issue and design pragmatic, effective solutions.

Therefore, this thesis will explore several research questions especially through surveys and interviews. The following overarching questions guide this research:

(1) Has technology increased the capacity/facilitation of human trafficking and sexual exploitation?

(2) Can networked technologies be used to identify and disrupt the demand side of sex trafficking and exploitation?

Before going into further details, let me show you till now how much the world has gone into digital.

The world has gone digital

Do you know more than one million people coming online every day for the first time since January 2018? The internet penetration around the world is exploding. Moreover, it's not just that the growth of internet users is making records, the mobile users and the social network users have also shown the tremendous growth.

The following image represents the bird-eye view of how much digital the world has gone so far.

Figure 1: Global Digital Population around the world as of January 2020

Total Population	Unique mobile users	Internet users	Mobile internet users	Social media users	Mobile social media users
7.76 Billion	5.18 Billion	4.54 Billion	4.18 Billion	3.80 Billion	3.75 Billion
Urbanization: 57%	Penetration: 68%	Penetration: 59%	Penetration: 55%	Penetration: 50%	Penetration: 49%

Source: Statista 2020

The mentioned above internet users say that per second 35 new users are added, which results in adding of three million users every day.

As the above image shows:

- Today, the world has 5.18 billion unique mobile users, up 1.18 billion (29.5 %) from January 2019.

- Internet users has marked the level of 4.54 billion, a 1.10 billion (31.98 %) high compared to January 2019.

- Mobile internet users are 4.18 billion. 0.98 billion (30.63 %) ne users are added from January 2019.
- Social media users have currently reached to 3.80 billion mark with the worldwide growth of 0.90 billion (31.03 %) since January 2019.
- In January 2020, 3.75 billion people use social media on mobile devices, with a growth of 0.95 billion new users from this time last year. It reflects a rise of 33.93 %.

Figure 2: Annual Digital Growth

Total Population	Unique mobile users	Internet users	Mobile internet users	Social media users	Mobile social media users
+11.73%	+29.50%	+31.98%	+30.63%	+31.03%	+33.93%
Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	Jan 2019 – Jan 2020
+0.9 Billion	+1.18 Billion	+1.10 Billion	+0.98 Billion	+0.90 Billion	+0.95 Billion

Source: Internet World Stats

Internet Users

If we try to distribute the internet users, it would be like as per the following:

Figure 3: The growth in Internet users in 2019 across different regions of the world
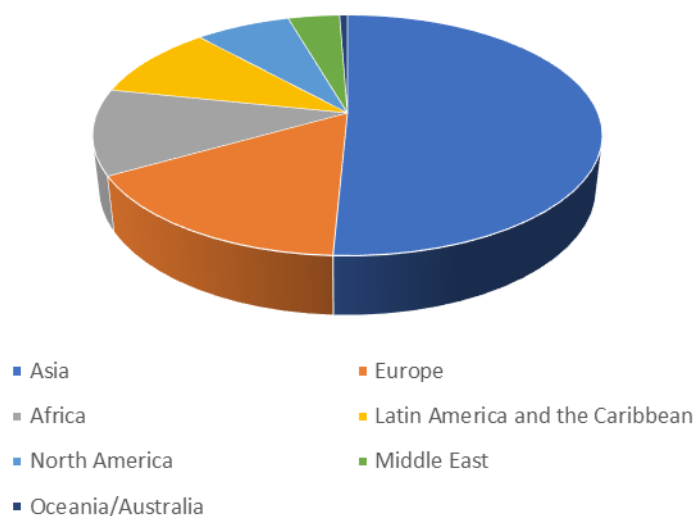
- Asia: 50.7%

- Europe: 16.0%

- Africa: 11.5%

- Latin America and the Caribbean: 10.0%

- North America: 7.2%

- Middle East: 3.9%

- Oceania/Australia: 0.6%

When countries are counted with the most active internet users, China comes first with 822 million users and India hosts the second-highest number of 564 million as of January 2020. Nevertheless, if we go by the list of countries with the largest absolute growth of internet users, India stands out. In the past 12 months, the internet users in India increased by almost 100 million, representing an annual growth of more than 20%. While in China, that absolute growth spike by around 51 million, representing almost 7% of year-on-year growth. It also means that India is responsible for more than a quarter of 2019's total global growth of internet users. Overall, Asia-Pacific delivered 55 percent of the annual growth figure in 2019.

These annual growth numbers are already impressive, but an even more striking picture emerges when we take a longer-term view as shown in the following figure.

Figure 4: Number of Internet Users (in billions) with year-on-year growth
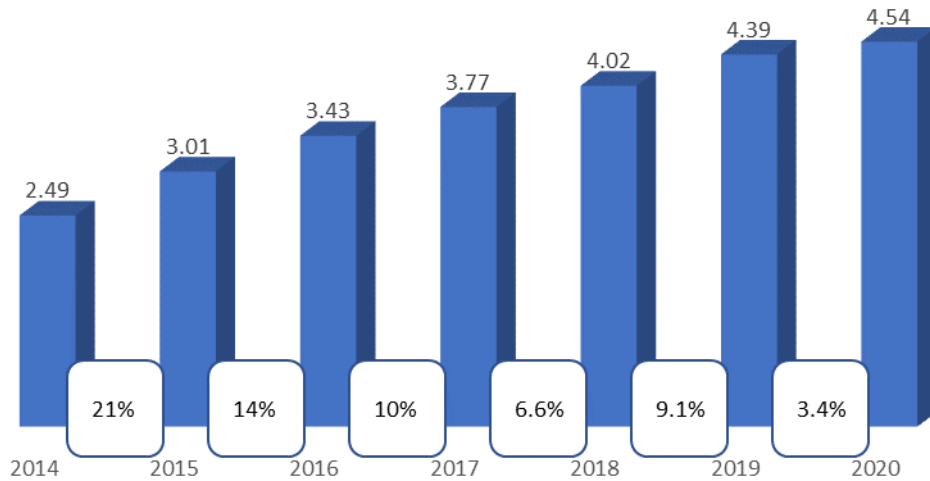
Source: Internet World Stats

Well, it took roughly 16 years for the internet to reach its first billion users, but to reach two billion it just took another six years. However, current data from multiple reports suggest that, after 2019 internet is growing at a rate of one billion new users every year.

Internet User Behaviors

The ways in which people use the internet are evolving quickly too, with mobile accounting for an ever-increasing share of our online activities.

Not so long ago, the personal computer was revolutionary, then the global network interconnected us all, and suddenly we started walking around with powerful machines in our pockets that allow us to communicate, learn, orient ourselves, watch Netflix, shine a light in the dark, and wake up whenever we have to.

Today, mobile internet is as essential as being able to drive a car. Yes, that is an understatement. You can find people who don't have a permit or a car, or both. But finding a person who doesn't own a cell phone is difficult.

In fact:
- 80% of users used a mobile device to search the internet in 2019.
- From 2012 to 2020 the total daily amount of time spent on a mobile device jumped from 88 to 240 minutes a day. That's 4 hours a day.
- In 2020 there were 4.18 billion unique mobile internet users. The total number of active internet users is 4.54 billion.

In all, whether it's the internet users, unique mobile users or number of social network users – India stands out in all. Therefore, the thesis focuses on why not to use such networked technologies to combat one of the burning problem of humanity, human trafficking.

Technology Facilitated Trafficking

Emerging networked technology is spreading rapidly. According to an eMarketer report *Worldwide Mobile Phone Users: H1 2014 Forecast and Comparative Estimates*, "between 2013 and 2017 mobile phone penetration rose from 61.1% to 69.4% of the global population (Ship, 2014)". In addition, mobile phone users are rapidly switching over to smartphones and eMarketer expects this to increase to 16 countries during 2014. By the end of the forecast period, smartphone penetration among mobile phone users globally will near 50%. Figure 5 below illustrates the share of victims detected globally for sexual exploitation from 2011 to 2015 according to the UNODC elaboration of national data. In 2011, there were 40 cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation out of 59 Internet users. In 2012, out of 65 internet users 48 cases were reported for sexual exploitation of 8,100 victims detected, 4,992 were trafficking for sexual exploitation. In 2014, of 79 internet users 50 were trafficking for sexual exploitation. In 2015, of 87 47 were trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Figure 5: Victims trafficked and worldwide internet users
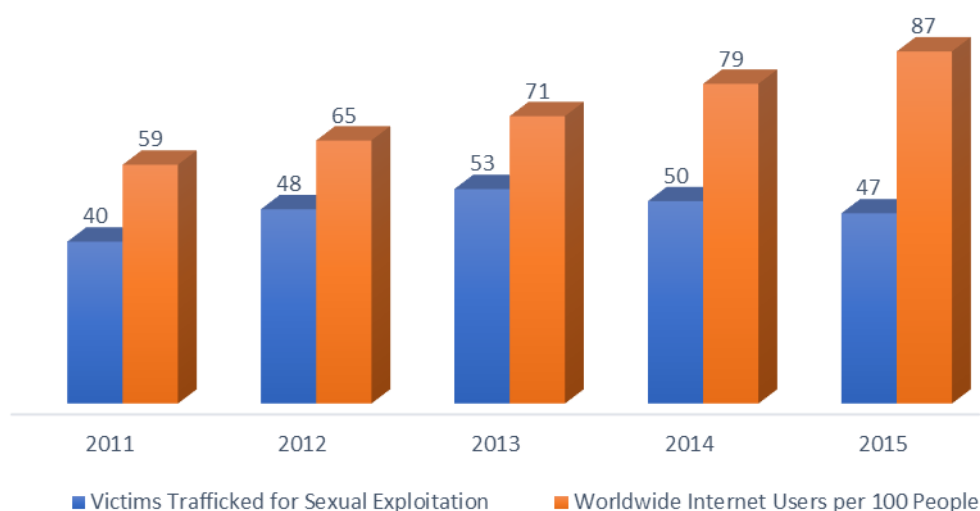
Source: World Bank

The data shows a steady rise in the number of Internet users but a decrease in victims trafficked for sexual exploitation in 2014 and 2015. Evidently, there is no specific data to support the assertion that as mobile phone usage rises, human trafficking rises because not all cases are reported, and some countries don't have the resources or laws to prosecute.

Technological Anti-Trafficking Efforts

Combatting human trafficking in light of these changes is challenging without comprehensive data to work from. To this end, both policy makers and analysts are beginning to question what can and should be done to improve data collection (Laczko, 2002). The U.S. government is taking a more active role. In 2011, the U.S. government supported over 110 anti-trafficking programs in 50 countries (Boyd et. al., 2011) Three years later, in 2014, the U.S. government is funding over 234 research projects on sex trafficking on a wide range of topics including: victim services, law enforcement actions, and methods of prevention.

The private sector has also begun to explore ways in which technology can combat the problem. For example, Microsoft issued a request for proposals worth $150,000 on the

role of technology in the advertising and selling of victims for exploitation and the purchase of victims by johns. Also, Microsoft issued a research report in 2011, "Human Trafficking and Technology: A framework for understanding the role of technology in the commercial exploitation of children in the U.S.", which maps out the multitude of ways that technology and human trafficking transect (Boyd et. al., 2011)". Finally, Google announced it would provide grants worth $11.5 million to ten organizations working to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking (Molko and Cohen, 2011).

In sum, despite recent governmental, academic and corporate attention to leveraging high-tech solutions to address human trafficking there are still many gaps. In fact, "data from law enforcement highlights some persisting tech issues, including (1) uneven technological training, (2) a lack of resources and capacity to respond to the issues, and (3) gaps in effectively sharing information across multiple jurisdictions and professional sectors". Moreover, methods of intervention and policies are mainly driven by, "speculation and extrapolation from highly publicized incidents". Subsequently, the purpose of this thesis is to delve into scholarly analysis to generate essential knowledge, which will ground policy debates and offer a catalyst for the development of new types of intervention.

Objectives and Methodology

1.1 Objectives

The main objective of this bachelor thesis is to understand how networked technologies can facilitate and combat human trafficking. Substantial work is essential to assess the scope to which human trafficking is facilitated and combated by technology. For that, I have kept two goals as per the following:

1. Assess the role of technology in increasing the capacity/filtration of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
2. Outline the possibilities if networked technologies can be used to detect and prevent the demand side of sex trafficking and exploitation.

1.2 Methodology

Various analyses will be carrying out to understand how networked technologies – here, it includes cell phones, social media, and the internet – facilitate and counter human trafficking. The goal of this study is to understand the impact of technology on human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which will be fulfilled by analyzing data sets, polls, questionnaires, interviews, and personal experiences. There will be two analyses. A systematic qualitative study will be performed to determine whether technologies enable trade of human beings. And then, a comparative study of different technology tools will be carried out to assess networked solutions: efficacy in fighting exploitation, their pervasive capability, and ability to spread information and help victims. Each of these analyses has the potential to shed more insight on the overall networked technologies, as well as their ability to combat and facilitate human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Qualitative Analysis of Facilitating Human Trafficking

To get the data I will do surveys, a phone interview and exchanges of emails with researchers, NGO leaders and journalists. To further understand the role that networked technologies play in facilitating human trafficking, I will perform analysis on that data. The study would explore four aspects of the technology-to-human trafficking facilitation connection. I will first examine the impact technology has on survivor recruiting and

kidnapping. Next, I will assess the travel, accommodation, and how the smugglers are manipulating their victims. The following stage of analysis will be to investigate how the traffickers market and sell their victims. Lastly, I would finish a study of how the smugglers utilize illegal forms of money exchange and money laundering.

Comparative Analysis

A comparative study will be done to evaluate which networked technologies have the greatest impact on fighting human trafficking. Through analyzing the following networked technologies used to facilitate trafficking: social media (Twitter and Facebook) and smartphones (apps and hotlines) against the criteria listed below. I will examine the capacities of these technologies in the battle against trafficking of human beings. In fact, the comparative analysis will also recognize common problems, pitfalls or openings that might combine them. The criterion is as follows:

1. Potential for widespread application
2. Usefulness in fighting human trafficking
3. Increasing awareness
4. Providing services to victims

Analyzing each of the networked technologies against this criterion and judging them based on their ability to perform certain tasks will determine which is most effective and in what way. This will enable law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations and other groups better fight smugglers.

Limitations

While the aforementioned analyses offer the opportunity to establish a link between technology and trafficking of human beings there are limitations. Firstly, the lack of accessible quantitative data on technology and human trafficking, which prevents a deeper analysis, is a significant restriction to point out. Moreover, while surveys will be sent to law enforcement agencies, NGOs and researchers, there is a possibility that I receive less responses than anticipated, thus reducing the data reach.

The thesis is mainly based on secondary data which have been taken from District Census Handbook, Statistical Abstract state wise National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), global statistical data from Department of States, USA and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The thesis presents an extensive literature survey based on research articles, organizations' web pages, press release, and some through personal conversations. Human trafficking conditions are described in India, and particularly in West Bengal. Some qualitative and quantitative methods have been used to search the present situation and problem of human trafficking in India and how it can solve through networked technologies.

Literature Review

The literature review is composed of multiple sections. First, a brief background on the history of slavery across the world is presented. Second, a discussion of the position of India in terms of human trafficking occurring into and within its borders. Third, a presentation of the range of existing definitions of human trafficking is explored. Fourth, how to recognize the signs of human trafficking, in its many forms, as well as the manner by which human trafficking policies and laws have evolved in India is examined.

Historical Slavery

Slavery has been present in most of recorded human history (Bales and Cornell 2008; Bales 2007). The forms, types, and purposes of slavery have changed over the centuries. Slavery can be traced to ancient Rome to large-scale agriculture production of the United States South prior to the United States Civil War (Bales, Trodd and Williamson 2011; Bales and Cornell 2008). While slavery was abolished in the United States through President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1863, it has continued to occur illegally within the United States and throughout the world in a myriad of forms (Abraham Lincoln Online 2016; Bales 2016). As the enslavement of individuals continued past the end of the United States Civil War, this illegal activity became a hidden crime, away from the public view (Bales, Trodd and Williamson 2011; Bales and Cornell 2008). This dissertation focuses narrowly on this hidden illegal slavery, also known as modern slavery, from 1940 to the present, mostly within the United States, but within the context of slavery as a global crime.

In 1940, Singapore was known "as a clearinghouse for traffickers" due to the increase in prostitution that emerged, and continued, during and after World Wars I and II (Kyle and Koslowski 2001, 93). Kyle and Koslowski (2001) argue that another Asian country, Thailand, had the highest number of women trafficked for sex, estimated between 8,000- 20,000 women. Of these sex slaves in Thailand, half of them served Bangkok and Dhonburi alone, serving centers as epicenters of military personnel visitation (Kyle and Koslowski, 2001). Other countries such as Burma (Myanmar), Ceylon (Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines were frequented by troops also had a significant number of persons sex trafficked including (Kyle and Koslowski, 2001).

According to Kyle and Koslowski (2001), the increase in human trafficking in the 1840s was due to three factors. First, there were increases in demand for gold mining and construction work on African plantations, with single, nonwhite males targeted for recruitment because there was a need to replace the African American slaves on the plantations (Kyle and Koslowski 2001). Second, "the colonial matrix and Western-dominated world market" produced further increases in demand for unskilled labor (Kyle and Koslowski 2001, 76). Third, there was an increased demand for single European and North American male laborers who were seeking better paying jobs, such as construction (Kyle and Koslowski 2001). This led the increase in sex tourism and trafficking in the Asian nations, and the increase in male enslaved labor for production in many nations, starting in 1940 (Kyle and Koslowski 2001). It led to the United Nations assumed a supervisory role over the international conventions against modern day slavery [after the establishment of the United Nations in June 1945] (Kyle and Koslowski 2001). In this role, the United Nations has continued to collect data on human trafficking and modern-day slavery (Kyle and Koslowski 2001).

Prior to the establishment of the United Nations, and associated supervision of the conventions alluded to earlier, the League of Nations officials completed similar reporting (Kyle and Koslowski 2001). After World War II, and the departure of the troops to various countries and cities that had attracted them, the persons in the sex tourism business began to be trafficked at first locally, and then regionally, to meet a wider geographical demand (Kyle and Koslowski 2001). Furthermore, between 1948- 1950, figures showed the same trends of trafficking occurring locally and regionally where women were trafficked between locations. For example, the distance "… between and among Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Germany, Greece, Yugoslavia; and the United States, Canada and Mexico" are examples of locations where women are trafficked to and from suggesting both intra and interstate trafficking activities (Kyle and Koslowski 2001, 126). To address the increase in sex trafficking over countries and regions, the UN established the "Conventions for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others" in 1949 (Kyle and Koslowski 2001).

While the deployment of troops during the World Wars increased the sex trade in Thailand and surrounding Asian countries, other reasons caused trafficking to be concentrated in particular places (Kyle and Koslowski 2001). For example, Engman (2011) argues that the tourism industry aids in the promotion of human trafficking, specifically sexual exploitation, as a number of tourist and tourism destinations, are known for sex tourism and associated sexual exploitation. Annually, roughly two million children under age 18 are sexually exploited (Engman 2011). The founder of Advocates for Freedom, Susie Harvill, believes the principal trafficker's motivations for human trafficking are pleasure and money (Lawson 2014). Thus, destination locations or large sports events such as the Super Bowl are a breeding ground for sex trafficking (Anderson 2015). In fact, the Super Bowl is known for being the "single largest human trafficking incident in the U.S." and online solicitation for human trafficking increased or immersed around the time of the Super Bowl and decreased post- Super Bowl (Anderson 2015).

Engman (2011) argues that traffickers tell themselves stories to justify their actions. Self-justifications include, but are not limited to, that they are offering children a means to purchase food and clothing for themselves and their families. The traffickers, as suppliers, are only half of the human trafficking equation that enables trafficking to continue, and thrive, as a business (Engman 2011). People purchasing these services are the other part of the equation (Engman 2011). Traffickers provide a service that is in demand by a select population (Engman 2011). While traveling, some tourists believe that trafficking is simply part of the local culture in which they are traveling, whether domestic and international, and thus they participate in human exploitation, perpetuating the vicious cycle (Engman 2011). This is not unlike the advertising phrase of the city of Las Vegas which touted, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas", suggesting that it is acceptable to participate in activities in "Sin City" and return home afterwards without feeling guilty.

Defining Human Trafficking

Various governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) define human trafficking or trafficking in persons (TIP) in different ways, which means that various studies are conducted without a standardized definition being used across all entities, whether it is the United States government, NGOs or other researchers (Panigabutra-Roberts 2012). The first time the

United States officially defined human trafficking was in 2000, in the context of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which is known as the Palermo Protocol (Panigabutra-Roberts 2012). At the conference, "trafficking in persons" was the term used, which later became human trafficking (Panigabutra-Roberts 2012).

According to the U.S. Department of State (2016), there are 21 countries that did not participate in the Palermo Protocol. These countries are highlighted in the following table: Nonparticipating Palermo Protocol Countries.

Table: Non-participating Palermo Protocol Countries

Bangladesh	Japan	Papua New Guinea
Bhutan	Korea (DPRK)	Solomon Islands
Brunei	Maldives	Somalia
Comoros	Marshall Islands	South Sudan
Republic of Congo	Nepal	Tonga
Fiji	Pakistan	Uganda
Iran	Palau	Yemen

The convention set the stage for the United States to examine human trafficking more intensely, both within its own borders and also by comparison to other nations globally (Panigabutra-Roberts 2012). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2015) has its own definition human trafficking as "a form of modern-day slavery, and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit human beings form some type of labor or commercial sex purpose". By contrast, the Polaris Project (2015) defines human trafficking as "a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others". It is important to note that human trafficking is not human smuggling, even if there are similarities and individuals use them interchangeably (Giguere 2013). Smuggling involves an individual crossing the border illegally, but successfully and thus, the transaction is complete. When the individual does so, the individual is free, unlike human trafficking (Kyle and Koslowski 2001).

According to Giguere (2013), illegal immigration, human smuggling and human trafficking can be viewed in terms of concentric circles or a funnel (Giguere 2013). The largest opening of the funnel represents illegal immigration, a situation is which an individual cross a border illegally (Giguere 2013). As one moves into the funnel, narrowing, human smuggling appears next as subset of illegal immigration (Giguere 2013). Human smuggling refers to an individual or family illegally crossing a border purposefully or under duress, for the purposes of fraud or for coercion (Giguere 2013). Even further narrowing in the funnel, is human trafficking. Consequently, there is distinct differences between these.

Human Trafficking is the trade of humans, most commonly for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery or commercial sexual exploitation for the traffickers or others. This may encompass providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage (Bokhari, 2013), (Cruz Leo, 2013) or the extraction of organs or tissues (United Nations, Web, 2009), including for surrogacy and ova removal (Eyal, 2013). Human trafficking can occur within a country or trans-nationally. Human Trafficking is a global crisis that is linked to the current move of globalization in the sex industry involving women and children (Hogue,2010). As a result, the rate of human trafficking increases with the growth of urbanization and industrialization. It is considered as the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. It is the third largest organized crime after drugs and arms trade across the globe (Nirmala, 2013). Human trafficking is thought to be one of the fastest-growing activities of trans-national criminal organizations (Shelley, 2010).

It is a matter of great disgrace to every Indian as lots of women and children are being trafficked every day in India. The problem of trafficking in India in general, and West Bengal in particular, is the most important social issue in recent times (Ghosh and Kar,2008). Nowadays it has become a very easy task to sell child and woman as well as to traffic them to other countries. It is a regular incident happening from one state to another state, from one region to another region, and sometimes from one district to another district. The rackets to traffic women and children make their way to India from neighboring countries violating the laws of the country and this crime is one of the most detestable activities, which is really a matter of grave concern to every conscious Indian.

Forms of Human Trafficking

When examining various definitions of human trafficking, force, fraud, or coercion are the most common terms used describing the activity. Besides the myriad of terms used to describe human trafficking, there are seven forms of human trafficking according to the U.S. Department of State (2015). Types include child sex trafficking, sex trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor or debt bondage, domestic servitude, forced child labor and unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers (U.S. Department of State 2015). Each of these types of human trafficking is briefly described.

Child Sex Trafficking

Trafficking of children involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Commercial sexual exploitation of children can take many forms, including forcing a child into prostitution (Williams, 2008), (Kansas City and Missouri, The Age, 2010) or other forms of sexual activity or child pornography.

A recent case of child human trafficking occurred in 2015 in Houston, Texas, where Deangelo Tate took two girls to Corpus Christi and Houston to sexually exploit them (Shadwick 2016). Both girls' names are protected information, as they are minors, and thus were listed in reports as, "Jane Doe 1" and "Jane Doe 2" (Shadwick 2016). Tate, who was 27 at the time, posted to Backpage.com where he solicited johns (people to engage in sexual acts with girls) for the girls' with photos on the site that Jane Doe 1 describes as "sexy photos" (Shadwick 2016). The sexual acts were performed in a conjoining hotel room (Shadwick 2016).

After two months of being held against her will, Jane Doe 1 was able to call the local Corpus Christi Police Department for help (Shadwick 2016). When police arrived, the girls were found in the bathroom and Tate, as well as another male, were in the adjacent room (Shadwick 2016). The report details the physical status of Jane Doe 1 as being beaten up with multiple abrasions, missing teeth, several bruises, burns, neck injuries and trauma to the genital area of her body (Shadwick 2016). The police learned the cause of the injuries during the initial interview with Jane Doe 1 (Shadwick 2016). The burns that

were discovered on her hands were from a cigarette lighter and her teeth were missing as the result of an assault by Tate (Shadwick 2016).

Jane Doe 1 stated that such acts of physical violence occurred if she did not obey Tate's orders (Shadwick 2016). On December 16, 2016, Tate appeared in front of the United States District Court, where Judge Gray H. Miller presided (Shadwick 2016). During the hearing, Tate pled guilty to the charge of child sex trafficking (Shadwick 2016). Tate's sentencing was scheduled for February 17, 2017 (Shadwick 2016). The details of Jane Doe 2 are unknown, as public information is not available on her. It is unknown if she testified in the case with Jane Doe 1, if she is recovering, or currently being trafficked. According to Harden (2017), during sentencing on February 17, 2017, Tate "was sentenced to more than 18 years in prison." Tate was also ordered to pay Jane Doe 1 $20,000 for restitution and upon release after the prison sentence is complete, Tate will be under supervisions for 10 years (Harden 2017).

Another example occurred in Franklin, Tennessee, during a Tennessee Bureau Investigation (TBI) operation called "Operation Someone Like Me," where TBI agents posted ads for three days as if they were an underage girl (WKRN Staff 2016). During the operation, 485 men responded, resulting in 41 arrests (WKRN Staff 2016). Of the 41 arrested, 34 of those responded that they wanted to have sex with a minor (WKRN Staff 2016). Eighteen of the 41 men paid upfront for sex with a minor and six women and one underage person were also arrested (WKRN Staff 2016). Details of the women and the underage person are not publicly known (WKRN Staff 2016). Those arrested had various professions, including a high school teacher, a student, a college athlete, and a state employee (WKRN Staff 2016).

Traffickers in children may take advantage of the parents' extreme poverty. Parents may sell children to traffickers in order to pay off debts or gain income, or they may be deceived concerning the prospects of training and a better life for their children. They may sell their children into labor, sex trafficking, or illegal adoptions, although scholars have urged a nuanced understanding and approach to the issue - one that looks at broader socio-economic and political contexts (Okyere, 2017), (Olayiwola, 2019).

Sex Trafficking

When individuals are lured under false pretenses in human trafficking, one potential form is sex trafficking (U.S. Department of State 2015). Sex trafficking occurs, "when an adult engages in a commercial sex act, such as prostitution, as the result of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion or any combination of such means, that person is a victim of trafficking" (U.S. Department of State 2015). For example, a girl from Cleveland, Ohio ended up being a victim of trafficking in Detroit in January 2003 (Bales 2009). The girl, who was seventeen at the time, did not respond to an ad or was not approached by a trafficker. Instead, she was kidnapped while at a bus stop (Bales 2009).

The young American girl was enslaved for months and forced to perform sexual acts to males (Bales 2009). During her enslavement period, other young girls who were forced to do the same surrounded her and the girls were never left alone (Bales 2009). When a girl was not doing what she was told, the older women beat her (Bales 2009). The girls were also treated to getting their nails and hair done if they were following the rules, as if there was some type of reward system (Bales 2009). Eventually, while at the mall, the seventeen-year-old girl was able to escape from her traffickers and into the arms of a security guard (Bales 2009). The guard helped keep her safe and when the police arrived, the girl told them what had happened, which led officials to discover that the traffickers had been involved in a multistate trafficking ring since 1995 (Bales 2009). The traffickers operated their ring by kidnapping girls as young as 13 and relocating them throughout the Midwest for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Bales 2009).

Trafficking for sexual exploitation was formerly thought of as the organized movement of people, usually women, between countries and within countries for sex work with the use of physical coercion, deception and bondage through forced debt. Trafficked women and children are often promised work in the domestic or service industry, but instead are sometimes taken to brothels where they are required to undertake sex work, while their passports and other identification papers are confiscated. They may be beaten or locked up and promised their freedom only after earning – through prostitution – their purchase price, as well as their travel and visa costs.

Forced labor

Forced labor, or labor trafficking, was not illegal until the passage of the Trafficking Victim Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000 (Villarreal and Owens 2016). Much like other forms of human trafficking, labor trafficking is hidden in plain sight, often in the forms of agriculture, domestic servitude, or construction labor (Villarreal and Owens 2016). In 2012, an estimate indicated that roughly 20.9 million people globally were forced into labor trafficking each year, yielding approximately $51.2 billion in profits (Villarreal and Owens 2016; International Labour Organization. 2012).

Forced labor is a situation in which people are forced to work against their will under the threat of violence or some other form of punishment; their freedom is restricted, and a degree of ownership is exerted. Men and women are at risk of being trafficked for unskilled work. Forms of forced labor can include domestic servitude, agricultural labor, sweatshop factory labor, janitorial, food service and other service industry labor, and begging (NHTRC, 2010). Some of the products that can be produced by forced labor are: clothing, cocoa, bricks, coffee, cotton, and gold (McCarthy, 2010).

An example of a case of forced labor was at a company that builds ships in Pascagoula, Mississippi (Villarreal and Owens 2016). According to Phillips (2008), in 2008, there were an estimated 100 Indian employees in Pascagoula, Mississippi, who left their jobs at Signal International Shipyard due to claims of human trafficking for labor. Each worker paid $25,000 in exchange for green cards they never received (Phillips 2008; Hulsey 2014; Villarreal and Owens 2016). These employees were recruited from India for the purposes of repairing oil rigs that were destroyed or severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina, some ten years previous (Villarreal and Owens 2016). The Indian welders and pipefitters entered the United States legally through the United States H2B visa program (Villarreal and Owens 2016).

Sabulal Vijayan was an employee of the shipyard and raised issues of the living conditions in which twenty-four employees resided in one room described as the "company-run work camp." In exchange for living in the camp, the company withheld $1,050 per month from each person (Phillips 2008; Hulsey 2014; Villarreal and Owens 2016). Vijayan was eventually fired (Phillips 2008; Hulsey 2014). One employee

attempted suicide (Villarreal and Owens 2016). In response to the allegations and federal lawsuit by the workers, Signal International stated that it was in full compliance with all regulations, including those set forth by the Department of Labor and Federal Immigration and Customs Division (Phillips 2008; Hulsey 2014). The 100 Indian employees at the heart of the investigation were placed in temporary housing in New Orleans during the investigation (Phillips 2008). The five workers, of the 100, who filed the federal lawsuit, were Jacob Joseph Kadakkarappally, Hemant Khuttan, Padeveettiyl, Sulekha Thangamani and Palanyandi Thangamani (American Civil Liberties Union 2015).

After a four-week trial, seven years after the date of filing, the five Indian workers who filed suit were awarded $14 million, which was split between the five defendants (American Civil Liberties Union 2015). During the investigation, it was determined that the company saved $8 million by employing underpaid Indian workers (American Civil Liberties Union 2015). According to Villarreal and Owens (2016), it is rare to see employers held accountable for labor trafficking. This was not the first and only case related to Signal International Shipyard, but it was a landmark case for labor trafficking as it was the largest trafficking case to date with a verdict for the claimants (American Civil Liberties Union 2015).

Bonded labor

Some individuals become victims of sexual exploitation and others are forced into labor. While some individuals grow up in debt bondage and continue to work throughout their lives to relieve debt accumulated by their family (U.S. Department of State 2015). Other individuals are lured by false pretenses from their community to foreign countries for inexpensive labor (U.S. Department of State 2015). A notable example is when family members assume the debt of their ancestors and continue to work to pay the debt, although the debt is rarely paid-in-full. This is a common practice in South Asia (U.S. Department of State 2016).

Bonded labor, or debt bondage, is probably the least known form of labor trafficking today, and yet is the most widely used method of enslaving people. Victims become "bonded" when their labor, the labor which they themselves hired and the tangible goods they have bought are demanded as a means of repayment for a loan or service whose

terms and conditions have not been defined, or where the value of the victims' services is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt. Generally, the value of their work is greater than the original sum of money "borrowed" (NHTRC, 2010).

Domestic Servitude

Individuals who are trafficked for domestic servitude are often not visible to the public because they work for others in their homes as nannies and house cleaners. Domestic servitude is another form of modern-day slavery (U.S. Department of State 2015; DeStefano 2008). Those who are trafficked for the purposes of domestic servitude are often secluded, and thus out of sight, so that the servant cannot contact their families, cannot run away, and has no ability to contact law enforcement (U.S. Department of State 2015).

Forced Child Labor

Forced child labor involves children under the age of 18 and is much like forced labor with the exception it involved strictly minors (U.S. Department of State 2016). Like other forms of human trafficking, forced child labor does not permit the children to leave the control of trafficker and often the child is separated from all family members and therefore there is no one to protect the child from exploitation (U.S. Department of State 2016). Additionally, the child is required to work, but all wages are kept by the slaveholder and thus no benefit is accrued to the child or their family (U.S. Department of State 2016). The U.S. Department of State (2016a) asserts laws and regulations passed to reduce, or end forced child labor should supplement existing child labor laws and regulations. For example, the public needs to be educated regarding human trafficking and whom a person should notify if they suspect someone of being trafficked (U.S. Department of State 2016). In addition, forced child labor traffickers should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law to indicate the hideous nature of the crime rather than offer a negotiated lesser sentence, which indicates lack of seriousness by the government of this crime (U.S. Department of State 2016).

Child labor is a form of work that may be hazardous to the physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development of children and can interfere with their education.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO):

- Worldwide 218 million children between 5 and 17 years are in employment. Among them, 152 million are victims of child labor; almost half of them, 73 million, work in hazardous child labor.

- Out of 152 million children in child labor, 88 million are boys and 64 million are girls.

- In absolute terms, almost half of child labor (72.1 million) is to be found in Africa; 62.1 million in the Asia and the Pacific; 10.7 million in the Americas; 1.2 million in the Arab States and 5.5 million in Europe and Central Asia.

- In terms of prevalence, 1 in 5 children in Africa (19.6%) are in child labor, whilst prevalence in other regions is between 3% and 7%: 2.9% in the Arab States (1 in 35 children); 4.1% in Europe and Central Asia (1 in 25); 5.3% in the Americas (1 in 19) and 7.4% in Asia and the Pacific region (1 in 14).

- Child labor is concentrated primarily in agriculture (71%), which includes fishing, forestry, livestock herding and aquaculture, and comprises both subsistence and commercial farming; 17% in Services; and 12% in the Industrial sector, including mining.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest incidence of child labor, while the largest numbers of child-workers are found in Asia and the Pacific.

Unlawful Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers

According to Collins (2011), two business models exist that lure people into, and have them cooperate through, the process of human trafficking. These two models are gorilla pimping and drugs as a means of control (Hulsey 2014). A gorilla pimp is someone "who controls his victims almost entirely through physical violence and force" (Shared Hope International 2016). Pimps are turning to drugs in order to maintain control of the victims (Hulsey 2014; Collins 2011). Collins (2011) also argues that both gorilla pimping and the use of drugs as a means of control employ violence as a primary means of controlling the victims (Hulsey 2014).

Causes of Human Trafficking

The main causes of human trafficking are as follows:

Poverty:

Poverty is a major factor in human trafficking industry. The victims look for any means to get out of the curse of poverty. These helpless condition of the victims gives ample scope to the traffickers to entrap the victims in their nets. The traffickers lure the victims with better life facilities by way of moving to foreign countries. Large populations of Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Nigeria, Thailand and Ukraine are affected by extreme poverty and exploited by Traffickers (Wright, 2015).

Political Condition:

Political instability, militarism, generalized violence or civil unrest increase in trafficking as well. The destabilization and scattering of population increase their vulnerability to unfair treatment and abuse via trafficking and forced labor.

War:

A large number of children who have lost their family members in war are vulnerable to trafficking. Armed conflicts lead to massive gross displacement of people.

Social and cultural practices:

Most of the women and girls are generally exploited and abused due to social and cultural practices and are forced to live in perilous condition. They are more vulnerable to human trafficking as they get little opportunity of upward mobility. In our society a single mother, divorced woman, widowed and sexually abused woman and young girls are easy prey to the traffickers because of the social stigma.

Demand of Cheap Labor:

Demand of cheap labor particularly in restaurants and kitchens help traffickers to exploit employees who are often initially promised a safe work space and a steady salary, though they are paid less than minimum wage and are forced to work on overtime. As the victims of trafficking are unable to protest for having very few alternatives, the business

owners never cease to practice these illegal norms. According to ILO there are more than 11.7 million people working as forced labor in Asia for specific reason (Nirmala, 2013).

Child Marriage:

In our country child marriage is the easiest way of human trafficking. In village community it is a matter of shame for the poor parents who are unable to arrange the marriage of their daughter. So, they easily accept the offer of the traffickers who approach the poor families with marriage proposal without dowry, rather with cash rewards (between Rs. 1000- Rs. 5000 on an average). After marriage, the girls are sold and resold until they reach ultimate destination. In South Africa range between 28,000 and 30,000 persons approximately half of whom are between 10-14 years of age, half of whom are between 15-18 years of age are trafficked for commercial sex (Redlinger, 2004).

Mutilation:

People are trafficked for their organs, particularly kidneys. It is a rapidly growing field of commercial activity. The life of the victim is at risk as operations are carried out in clandestine conditions with no medical care at all. According to NCRB (2015), 15 cases were registered under the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994 in India.

Sex-Tourism:

In recent time globalization has played an important role for the growth of tourism business and entertainment industries. As a result, sex related trades like sex tourism have grown rapidly. At the same time rising male migration to urban areas as well as stressful working of the BPO sector workers have also contributed to growing demand for commercial sex in the cities. Statistics say that many women are trafficked from Philipines, Thailand to Netherland and Spain for sex tourism. The communication revolution occurred with the development of internet, increases the growth of sex tourism industry (Jefferys, 2010).

Child Labour:

Child labour means work performed by a child under the age of 14 for economic purpose. Children are deprived of their childhood and regular attendance to school. Though

all the work done by children is not detrimental or exploitive, but this practice is hazardous and harmful to the physical and mental health of a child. Across the globe, traffickers supply child for use in forced labor activities. Some of the children are trafficked into the commercial sex industry. In Ghana about one in every six children ages 4-17 is engaged in child labor (Kudlac, 2015).

Migration:

Migration means the movement by people from one place to another with an objective mind. When people take irregular means for migration, they are easily victimized by human traffickers which poses a great danger to children and young woman in particular. Migrants from Bangladesh are sometimes trafficked and sold into prostitution or forced labor.

Effects of Human Trafficking:

Emotional effect:

Victims who are trafficked into the commercial sex industry and are compelled to have intercourse with many people are broken with extremely low confidence, embarrassed and, if trusted, are very angry. Their feeling of guilt, wretchedness, anxiety leads them to endeavor suicide.

Physical Health effect:

Traffickers abuse victims physically. They can carry sexually transmitted infections. The victims are subjected to physical torment and deprivation for taking responsibility for them and preventing them from getting away.

Economic effect:

Although human trafficking is a high profit and low risk adventure, the perpetrators mortgage the life of adults and children for their selfish gains. Human Trafficking ruins the future of any society for which a large number of people cannot work effectively. The situation worsens when women and children are most affected.

Social effect:

As the victims of trafficking, are unable to lead a family life for a long period and are cutoff from normal social activities possible adjustment for them would be difficult. Their progress is delayed even when all is in place for their rehabilitation and reintegration because of the stigma put on them by the society.

Present Scenario of Human Trafficking in India:

India is a source, destination and transit country of men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Some NGOs and media report that girls are sold and forced to conceive and deliver babies for sale. Some children reportedly as young six years old are forcibly removed from their families and forced by separatist groups such as the Maoists in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Odisha to act as spies, couriers, plant improvised explosive devices and fight against the government (Department of States, USA, 2016).

Experts estimate millions of women and children are victims of sex trafficking in India.80% of human trafficking across the world is done for sexual exploitation and rest is for bonded labor and India is considered as the hub of this crime in Asia (Nirmala, 2013). The total 1,092 traffickers are involved in India (Sen and Nair, 2004). According to Walk Free Foundation Global Survey Index 2014 India is home to an estimated 14 million victims of human trafficking, including victims of sex trafficking, bonded labor, child labor, domestic servitude and forced marriage(Vidushy, 2016). Prime source and destinations for domestic trafficking victims include Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Gujrat, Hyderabad and for international human trafficking prime source and destination includes Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, UAE, Finland, Malaysia etc. The India-Nepal Border; Nepali women and girls increasingly subjected to sex trafficking in Assam and other cities such as Nagpur and Pune. Following the April 2015, Nepal Earthquake, Nepali women who transit through India are increasingly subjected to trafficking in the Middle East and Africa (Department of State, USA, 2016). In 2011 about 35,000children were reported missing and more than 11,000 out of these were from West Bengal (Nirmala, 2013).

Amongst all the states of India, West Bengal is the center of human trafficking for domestic slavery in India today. With no law pertaining to placement agencies in West

Bengal, children and women continue to fall prey to illegal recruitment agencies that entice them with false job offer and then trap them into domestic slavery. Prime source for human trafficking victims includes Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Meghalaya and prime destination for human trafficking victims include Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Nepal, Bihar, Delhi, Tamilnadu, etc. regarding human trafficking in West Bengal (Fig:5). Out of total 8,132 cases of human trafficking recorded in2016 in India. West Bengal has topped the list in the state. In West Bengal 3,576 cases were registered. According to the NCRB, Assam and West Bengal account for 40% of all crime related to Human Trafficking. The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime states that out of over 19,000 children and women who went missing from West Bengal in 2011, only 6,000 have been traced. Poverty, domestic violence, abuse and the absence of opportunity and freedom, breeds conditions for the growth of such rackets. Recent report says that The Kidnapper or "*chele dhora*" has been a device used by generation of families in West Bengal to scare wandering children into coming back home at a certain time or from straying. The other narrative that has survived generation of relating is the snatching of unattended babies by sanyasis. In popular imagination, the suitably clad ascetic is both anonymous and dangerous. (Mukherjee, 2016) In recent year, there have been too many exposes on how badly shelters and homes are run. In 2012, there was the Gurap home in Hooghly, for women who were mentally ill and had been rescued. The home's backyard and adjacent open spaces were used to bury inconveniently dead inmates. In 2016, there were reports of the painfully humiliating treatment of the mentally ill in West Bengal best known hospital, Lumbini Park. Tanuja Khatun, 18 years old, threatened action against a man after it was revealed that he was trying to lure a girl for a job in the national capital. She has helped save as many as 32 girls from trafficking, enabled reunification of more than 15 trafficked girl children with their families and prevented seven child marriages. Saluting her spirit, Tanuja was given a special award for her bravery.

Sonagachi, Kolkata's infamous red-light area, keeps growing even though it is monitored and is the work site of an internationally acclaimed NGO run by women who once worked in the sex trade, the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee. Clearly the trade in women and girls has not declined. The supply chain and the demand are clearly more robust than the capacity of Durbar to control the trade. West Bengal's share of the trade in humans is now about one-fifth or 20% of the detected cases in India. The geographical

location of West Bengal therefore makes it a vulnerable location for trafficking. (Ghosh and Kar, 2008).

Administrative capacity to tackle trafficking is seriously inadequate. West Bengal has 2,217 km of borders with Bangladesh. This porous border with Bangladesh with few official check posts is particularly thorny problem. On the other side West Bengal has 92 km of borders with Nepal and 175 km with Bhutan. But there are 14 entry points with Nepal. Hence it is often difficult for BSF to keep a close look and demarcate persons from other migrants and trespassers. An activist who has worked with the police in South 24 Parganas, where Sundarban is located, revealed painful details of how poorly the anti-trafficking machinery in the state was equipped to deal with the magnitude of the problem. The main problems are lack of money, resource and the capacity to handle the rescue mission. Report says Children's Group (linked with Integrated Child Protection Scheme) started in 2004 in the Sandeshkhali-Canning area, are now also present in Kolkata, Malda. Most of the rescued children are given training in special centers before they are taken to schools. Hriday Ghosh, head of Dhagogia Social Welfare Society, partner of NGO save the children in Sandeshkhali says that the situation has improved there and that many traffickers have shifted base. (Hindusthan Times Report).

This is almost common situations in all states of India where human trafficking prevail. That's why technology can play a role in combating human trafficking.

Human Trafficking Policies in India:

Article 23 of the Constitution: Guarantees right against exploitation, prohibits trafficking human beings and forced labor and makes their practice punishable under law.

Article 24 of the Constitution: Prohibits employment of children below 14 years of age in factories, mines or other hazardous employment.

Indian Penal Code (IPC): There are 25 provisions relevant to trafficking; significant among them are:
- Section 366A - Procuration of a minor girl (below 18 years of age) from one part of the country to the another is punishable.

- Section 366B - Importation of a girl below 21 years of age is punishable.
- Section 372 - Selling of girls for prostitution.
- Section 373 - Buying of girls for prostitution.
- Section 374 - Provides punishment for compelling any person to labour against his will.
- Human Trafficking (Section 370 and 370A IPC) after enactment of the criminal law (amendment) Act, 2013, the Bureau has also started collecting data under this section.

Major Act to Prohibit Trafficking in India:

Trafficking in Women and Girls Act in 1956 popularly known as SITA: SITA is broadly defined prostitution as selling of sex by a female in return of money.

Child Labor (Protection and Regulation) Act,1986: Prohibits employment of children in certain specified occupation and lay down conditions of work of children.

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA): Punish those who are engaged in the business of trafficking in women and girls for immoral purpose.

Information Technology Act, 2000: Penalizes publication or transmission in electronic form of any material which is lascivious or appeals to prurient interest or if its effect in such as to tend to deprive and corrupt persons to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied therein. The law has relevance to addressing the problem of pornography. India also adopted a code of conduct for Internet Service Providers with the objective to enunciate and maintain high standard of ethical and professional practice in the field of Internet and related services (Khan, 2011).

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act, 2000:
- Enacted in consonance with the convection on the Rights of the child (CRC).
- Consolidates and amends the law relating to juveniles in conflicts with law and to children in need of care and protection.
- The law is especially relevant to children who are vulnerable and are therefore likely to be inducted into trafficking.

Karnataka Devdasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act,1982: Act of dedication of girls for the ultimate purpose of engaging them in prostitution is declared unlawful-whether the dedication is done with or without consent of the dedicated persons.

Andhra Predesh Devdasi (Prohibiting Dedication) Act,1989: Penalty of imprisonment for three years and fine are stipulated in respect of who performs, promotes, abets or takes part in Devdasi dedication Ceremony.

Goa Children's Act, 2003:
- Trafficking is specially defined.
- Every type of sexual exploitation is included in the definition of sexual assault.
- Responsibility of ensuring safety of children.

Bonded labour is specially prohibited under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Other Important Acts:
- Probation of Offenders Act ,1985
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act,1986
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act,1929
- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS)Act,1985
- The Prevention of Corruption Act,1988
- The Children (Pledging and Labour) Act,1986
- The Bonded Labour System (Abolition)Act,1976
- The Transplantation of Human Organ Act,1994
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

In December 2015, as a result of public interest litigation, The Supreme Court directed the Central govt. to develop comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation by June 2016.

International Law:

International law lay down standards that have been agreed upon by all countries. The following are the most important International Conventions regarding trafficking children:

- The Convention of the Right of the Child,1989.
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000.
- The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) ,1979.
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with special reference to Foster placement and adoption Nationally and Internationally, 3 December 1986.
- SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangement for the Promotion of Child Welfare, 2002.

Practical Part

This dissertation focuses on role of networked technologies in facilitating and combating human trafficking. More specifically, it seeks to measure the extent to which human trafficking is facilitating and combating using networked technologies. To date, there is only anecdotal evidence in the form of interviews of human trafficking survivors on how through networked technologies they got trapped. To understand the broader picture of how networked technologies is facilitating and the same can be used in combating human trafficking, a mixed-method approach was deemed to be the most effective method of collecting data to answer about how networked technologies help in facilitating or combating human trafficking.

To collect data, I established a primary Plan A and a secondary Plan B. Plan A was the survey questions. And Plan B was to compliment the survey data with interviews with the goal of answering the research questions as completely as possible.

Plan A: Surveys

Primary data collection would be in the form of a survey. As with all methods, there is a long list of items a researcher must address to proceed forward. This holds true with a survey where questions regarding sample size, sampling methods, sampling error, measuring data, beta-testing, data management, data cleaning and plans for data analysis all were examined in detail to create a robust survey to ensure the best data collection process possible. The more solid the method, the higher the quality of the data. From quality data and analysis, the researcher can make the best conclusions possible (Hulsey 2013, Fink 2003).

Survey Design

"Surveys are systems for collecting information from or about people to describe, compare, or explain their knowledge, attitudes, and behavior" (Fink 2003). Fink (2003) argues that surveys that yield the best results have six common features:

1. Specific, measures objectives
2. Sound research design

3. Sound choice of population or sample

4. Reliable and valid instruments

5. Appropriate analysis

6. Accurate reporting of results

Mean:

The Arithmetic (or simply mean, also, average) of a set of data might be computed by two ways. Based on individual values we use the non-weighted form, in case of distribution (frequency) table (grouped data) use the weighted form. (Hlavsa, 2017)

$$(x_1 + x_2 + \ldots + x_n) / n$$

Median:

One disadvantage of the mean is that it is sensitive to every value, so one exceptional value can affect the mean dramatically. The median largely overcomes that disadvantage. The median can be thought of as the "middle value" in the sense that about half of the values in a data set are below and half are above it. (Hlavsa, 2017)

Mode:

The mode of a data set is the value that occurs most frequently. (Hlavsa, 2017)

Survey Breakdown by Question:

In this section, each of the instrument questions are presented followed by descriptive statistics for each question. Also, each question is represented by a figure, chart or graph for ease of viewing. Then analysis and discussion of the data follows. The data analysis includes all responses, even if a question was skipped. Initially, there were 500 people who had been approached for survey. However, as all were not ready to participate 212 more people were approached to get at least 500 participants for the survey. The data analysis includes all responses, even if a question was skipped. Before taking a survey, it was made sure that the participants were minimum 18 years of age.

Question 1: How did you FIRST learn of human trafficking? Check one:

Question 1 asked participants to identify how they first learned of human trafficking. Question 1 had 500 responses with 76 participants skipping the question. Of the available choices, the majority selected television, 156 participants or 31.2%. The second highest response was "Other." Examples of the "other" response are: work, training and military. Please indicate," with 85 responses or 17%. The third highest response was

"Facebook," at 56 or 11.2% of participants. "Word of Mouth" and "School" were the fourth and fifth most common response, respectively, with 38 responses or 7.6% and 30 responses or 6% of participants. The final most common choice was "conference" at 16 or 3.2% of the total responses. Twenty-five participants selected "website" as the reason they first learned of human trafficking, representing 5% of responses. "Instagram" represents 1.2% of the total responses with six responses. "Twitter," as a response, represents 1% of participants or five responses. "Billboard," was chosen by three participants or 0.6% of responses. Finally, one person selected "travel guide" representing 0.2%. No participant selected the options of brochure, email, and hotel material.

Scatter Plot
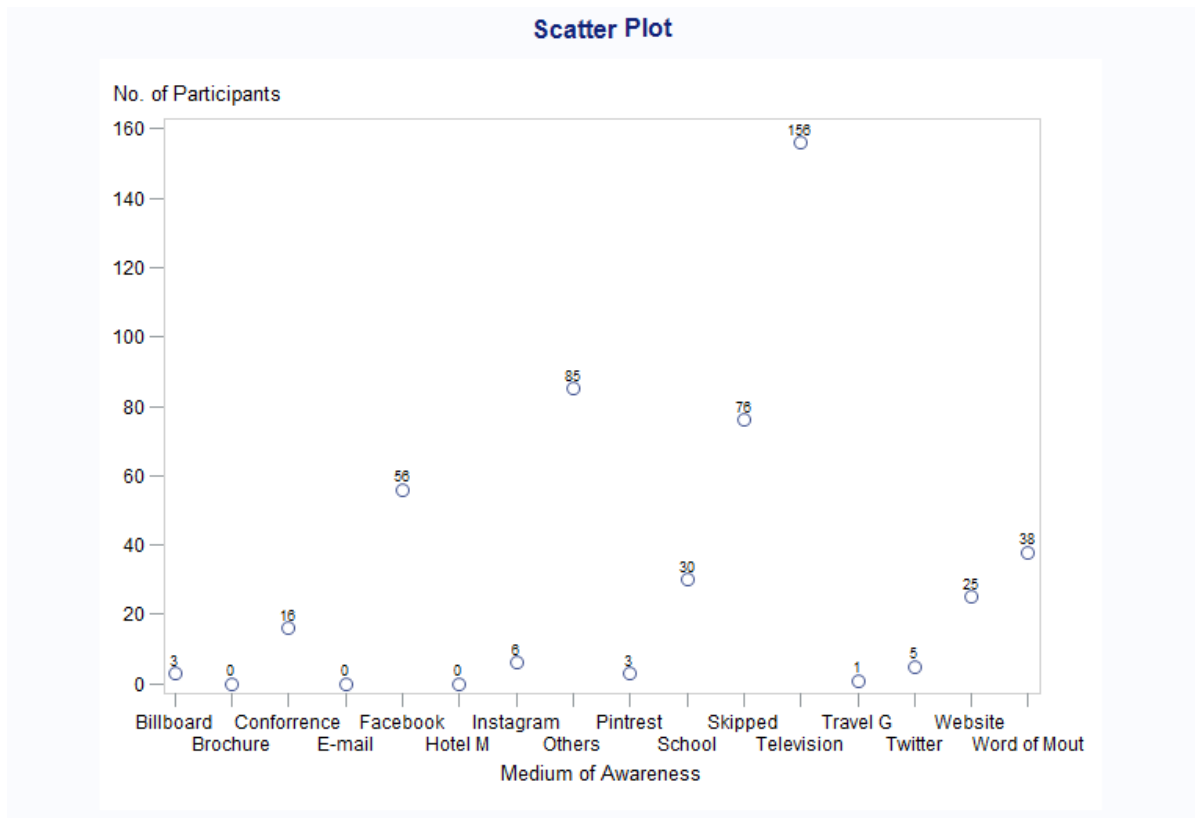
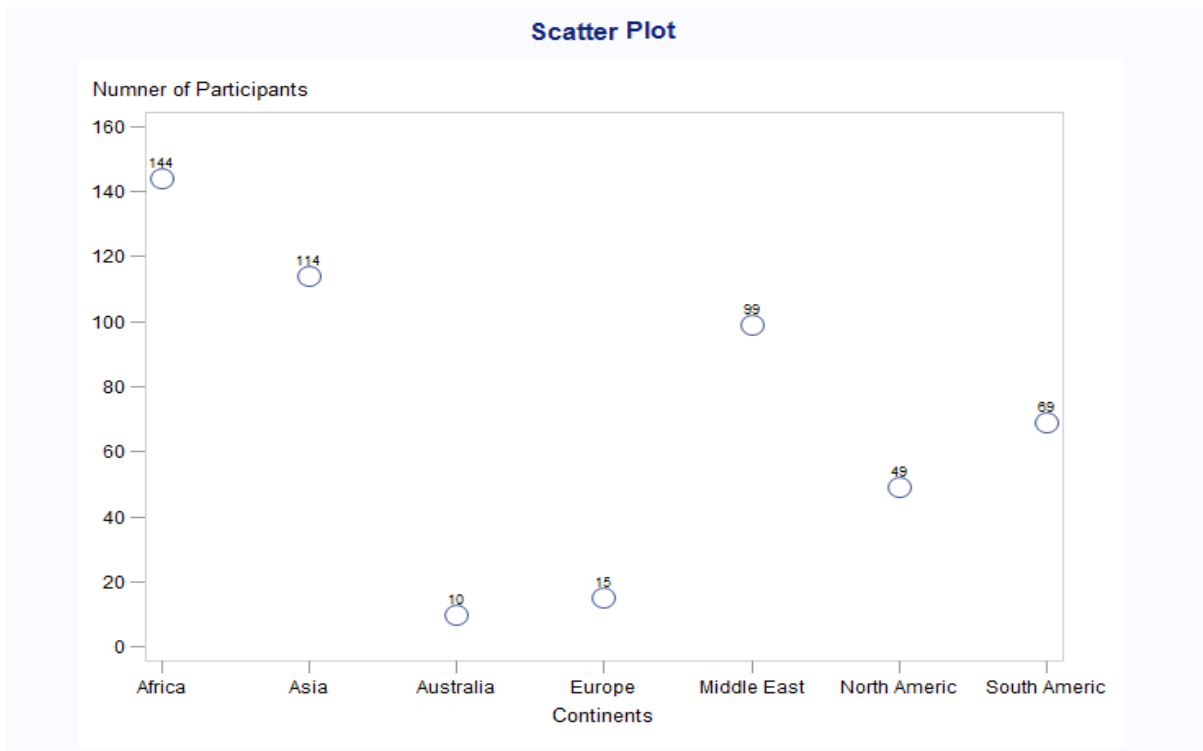

Summary Statistics

Results

The MEANS Procedure

Analysis Variable : No. of Participants					
Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mode	N	Median
31.2500000	0	156.0000000	0	16	11.0000000

Question 2: Human trafficking most probably happens in which continent?

The participants had seven options to select regarding survey Question 2, "Human trafficking most probably happens in…" which were the following: Asia, Europe, Africa, Middle East, Australia, North America, South America. The response rate to this question was 100%, meaning all 500 participants who were taking the survey further answered this question. Of the 500 participants answered, highest number of participants 144 voted for "Africa," which is 28.8%. The second highest votes went to "Asia" with 22.8%, that is 114 participants expressed that human trafficking most probably happens in Asia. 99 participants, meaning 19.8%, voted to "Middle East." The fourth choice of participants was "South America" with 13.8%, that is 69 participants voted for it. 49 participants voted to "North America," which is 9.8%. While 15 participants, 3%, voted to "Europe," and 10 had voted to "Australia," which is 2%.

Summary Statistics

Results

The MEANS Procedure

Analysis Variable : Numner of Participants					
Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mode	N	Median
71.4285714	10.0000000	144.0000000	.	7	69.0000000

Question 3: Is human trafficking increasing with the usage of networked technologies?

After two different questions related to human trafficking, the time had come to ask about the role of networked technologies. This was the first direct question concerning the role of networked technologies in human trafficking. The question was whether the participants see that human trafficking is increasing due to the encroachment of networked technologies or not. Here, the participants had two options to select – "Yes" or "No". The response can be viewed in the following figure.

Q3: Is human trafficking increasing with the usage of networked technologies?
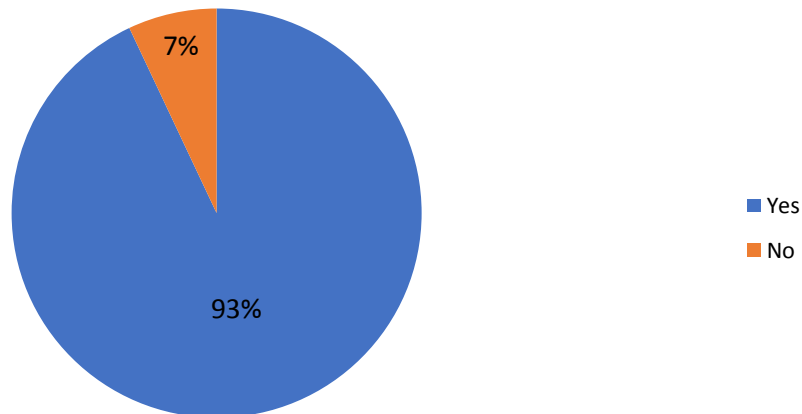

It was surprising to observe that most participants believe human trafficking is facilitated by networked technologies. Amongst 494 participants, 460 participants said "Yes" in response to the question, while 34 or 7% of the participants said "No". With such a huge response to 'Yes,' it would be interesting to see the response for the following survey question.

48

Question 4: Can you please define human trafficking in your words. Take as much time as you need.

Question 4 asked participants to use their own words to define human trafficking. The total number of responses of to this question were 500. Of these 500 total responses, 426 participants answered the question with a response, whereas 74 skipped the question or gave no response.

In defining "human trafficking," there were commonly used words by many of the participants. The seven most commonly used words used among all survey participants were 1) forced, 2) sex, 3) selling, 4) illegal, 5) transporting, 6) human trafficking, and 6) human beings. Of the 426 participants who answered this question, 19% or 95 participants, used the word "force" when defining human trafficking. 89 participants or 17.8%, included the term "sex" in their response. The third most commonly used word among all survey participants when defining human trafficking was "selling." Selling was used by 60 participants or 12%. Another 56 respondents used the term "illegal" when defining human trafficking. These 56 represent 11.2% of the participants. The term "transporting" was used 46 times or by 9.2% of participants. The term "human trafficking" was used by 41 participants, which represents 8.2% of survey participants. The seventh most commonly used word among all participants who answered the question was the phrase, "human beings," which represents 39 responses or 7.8% of survey participants.

Scatter Plot

Number of Participants

Define Human Trafficking
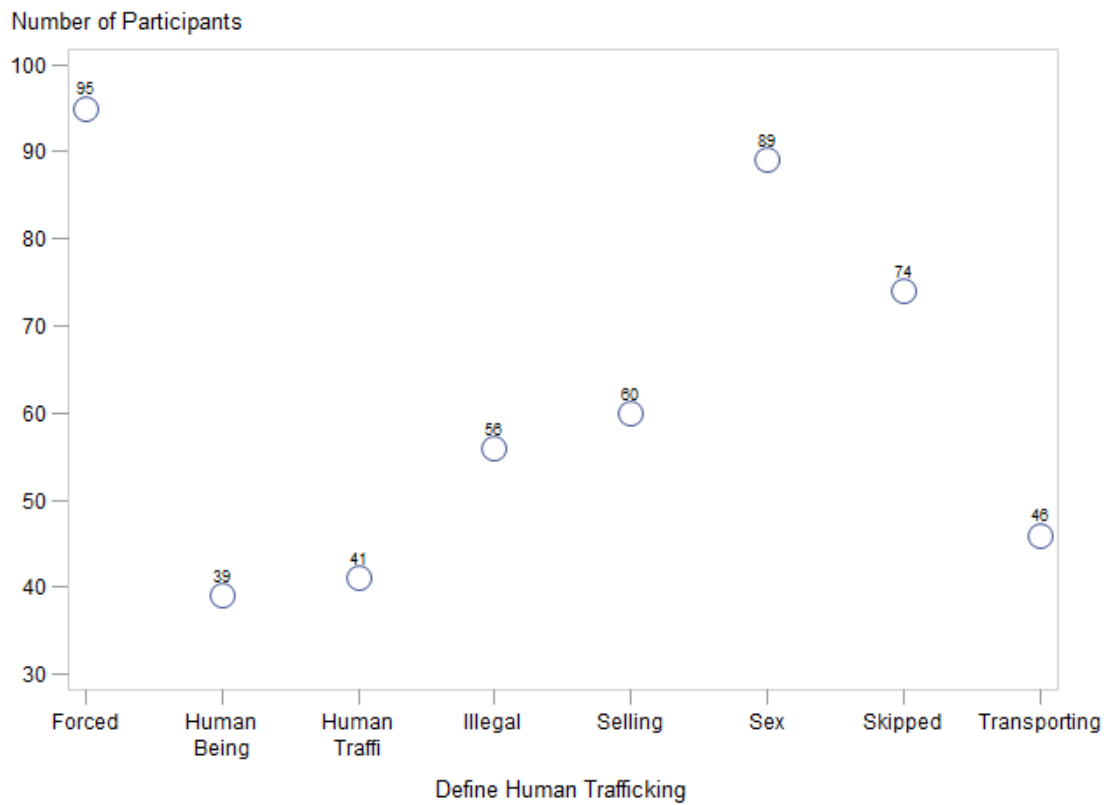
Summary Statistics

Results

The MEANS Procedure

Analysis Variable : Number of Participants					
Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mode	N	Median
62.5000000	39.0000000	95.0000000	.	8	58.0000000

Question 5: What do you think are the chances of combating human trafficking using networked technologies?

It's an exact opposite of the Question 3, "Is human trafficking increasing with the usage of networked technologies?" The goal here was to assess if the participants think networked technologies facilitate human trafficking, what they believe about the chances of employing networked technologies in combating human trafficking. Here again, the participants had two options to select – "Yes" or "No".

Q5: What do you think are the chances of combating human trafficking using networked technologies?
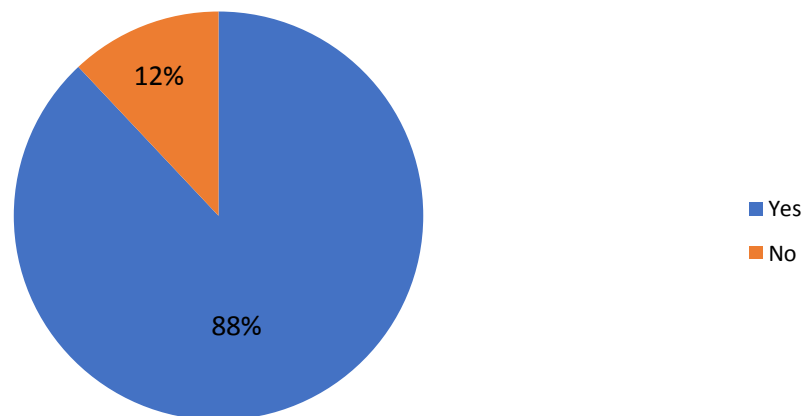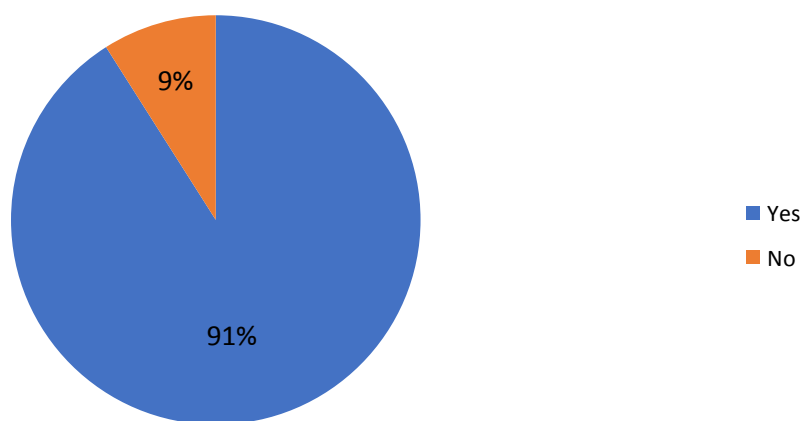

Amongst 494 participants, 88% or 435 participants think networked technologies can be used to combat human trafficking. While only 12% or 59 participants were not viewing networked technologies as a tool to combat human trafficking.

Question 6: Do you believe human trafficking can be lessen using networked technologies?

This survey question again offered two options to select – "Yes" or "No".

Q6: Do you believe human trafficking can be lessen using networked technologies?

Amongst 494 participants, 91% or 450 participants believe human trafficking can be lessen using networked technologies. While only 9% or 44 participants believe human trafficking can be lessen using networked technologies.

Results and Discussion

Assess the role of technology in increasing the capacity/filtration of human trafficking and sexual exploitation:

Research and direct evidence show that technology is being misused by human traffickers during all the stages of the crime, including recruitment, control, and exploitation of victims. Some of the main reasons that technology is harnessed by traffickers include:

Hiding identities and increasing anonymity online:

Perpetrators and their associates communicate through encrypted applications or use the Dark Web to connect. Recruitment of victims takes place through fake social media accounts and fake profiles on applications. Additionally, cryptocurrency allows traffickers to conduct financial transactions and move criminal proceeds anonymously.

Facilitating recruitment and exploitation of victims by traffickers:

Online interaction facilitates targeting of potential victims, access to personal data, arrangement of logistics and transportation, and recruitment through social media.4 An analysis of cases in the 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons shows how perpetrators sequence their actions by identifying potential victims on social media, establishing a relationship of trust, and subsequently entrapping them in exploitative situations. Children are especially at risk due to their specific vulnerabilities and the threat of traffickers exploiting children online is growing: for example, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in the United States "reported an 846% increase from 2010 to 2015 in reports of suspected child sex trafficking – an increase the organization has found to be 'directly correlated to the increased use of the Internet to sell children for sex".

Facilitating transactions, accessing new venues, and expanding the marketplace:

The misuse of technology can also make it easier for traffickers to engage in transactions with users, enter new marketplaces and expand criminal operations. For example, with regard to trafficking for sexual exploitation, where w men and girls represent 94% of identified victims globally, technology - and specifically the Internet helps traffickers to advertise victims and connect more easily with a large market of users. Additionally, large online platforms hosting advertisements for sexual services provide sex traffickers the means to attract customers and, in turn, to sexually exploit victims. And the trend is upward: Europol notes that "the online advertisement of sexual services is an increasing phenomenon relating to THB for sexual exploitation, with children being advertised as adults".

Expanding the means by which victims may be controlled and exploited:

The misuse of some technologies can also help traffickers' control and coerce victims. For example, traffickers may use GPS software in phones to track the movements of victims or, in the case of domestic servitude and other forms of labor exploitation, monitor and control victims through video surveillance. In the context of trafficking for sexual exploitation, threats to share sexually explicit images are used to control victims. Traffickers can also use live streaming to reach a broader market of customers who may never have physical contact with the victim.

The misuse of technology in facilitating human trafficking has been exacerbated by a number of enabling factors such as:

- Insufficient legal frameworks which do not provide the tools necessary to enable successful investigations and prosecutions to counter impunity online or use the entire array of tools to efficiently fight trafficking in persons in the online world.
- The transnational nature of ICT-facilitated human trafficking where perpetrators, victims and technology platforms could be in different countries, generating additional challenges concerning jurisdiction, evidence collection, extradition, and mutual legal assistance.
- Weak cooperation among national and international institutions and the private sector which hinders opportunities to promptly react to innovative approaches adopted by traffickers and does not allow for full utilization of resources and expertise available in different sectors.

- Lack of capacity, awareness and expertise of law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judiciary due to – among other factors – the complex and evolving nature of ICT-facilitated trafficking.
- Limited availability of technological tools (as well as the necessary expertise and capacity) to anti-trafficking practitioners.

Positive use of technology to combat human trafficking:

A number of initiatives have already been launched around the world on the use of technology to fight human trafficking. For example, Tech Against Trafficking, a coalition of technology companies working to combat human trafficking and supported by different stakeholders including international organizations such the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the International Organization for Migration, has mapped more than 260 technology tools that support anti-trafficking work. Nearly half focus on trafficking for forced labor, 18% on trafficking for sexual exploitation, and the rest on other forms of trafficking. The tools range from simple mobile apps informing vulnerable communities and individuals of the risks of labor exploitation, to more advanced technologies – such as satellite imagery and geospatial mapping – used to identify and locate remote and high-risk sectors that may be engaged in illegal activity and require additional investigation.

Some major categories of technology currently being used by law enforcement, NGOs, academia and private sector to combat trafficking in persons include:

Data Aggregation and Analysis:

The online world is limitless and tens of thousands of websites, chatrooms, applications, and on-line video games, among others, can be associated with human trafficking criminal enterprises. Since it is impossible for law enforcement authorities and NGOs in any country to monitor and analyze everything in the online world, data tools have been developed by state authorities, technology companies and NGOs to aggregate and synthesize relevant information into useful reports thus saving valuable resources.

Blockchain for Traceability and Provenance:

A considerable number of private sector companies are undertaking measures to identify and mitigate the risks of human trafficking in their global supply chains. Since global corporate brands have tens of thousands of suppliers spread all over the world, monitoring supply chains is a very complex process. To better identify human trafficking risks, companies are using blockchain technology which allows tracking the production of goods from their source to the final destination to increase transparency and aid in exercising due diligence.

Artificial Intelligence:

The computational power of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning is increasingly being leveraged to combat many traditional challenges, including human trafficking. AI can help make predictions, recommendations, or decisions independently and without human intervention. In the context of human trafficking, examples include the use of AI to identify how a child victim of sex trafficking would look when he/she is an adult, to enable autonomous machine communication with potential users of services from trafficking victims, to recognize the features of hotel rooms where victims may be held, and to identify financial transactions that may be indicative of human trafficking networks.

Facial Recognition:

Visual processing software can be used to search for photos and videos of victims who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Facial recognition technology can be used in web crawling to search for photos and videos of victims who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. This type of technology can also help law enforcement authorities to analyse tens of thousands of pictures and videos to identify content attributed to a particular individual.

Technology for Victims and Survivors:

A number of technology-based tools to identify or support victims and survivors have been developed, such as applications that allow outreach workers to interview potential victims in different languages or e-learning platforms to teach survivors new job skills. In the context of labor exploitation, technology solutions based on online surveys,

SMS, and voice-operated applications are being used to engage workers broadly to request information about possible exploitative practices across multiple tiers of supply chains.

Conclusion

Networked technology and human trafficking for sexual exploitation are closely intertwined and the scope, volume and content of the material on the Internet promoting or facilitating these criminal actions are unprecedented. In the future, as more cases of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation are exposed, the details of their operations will most likely continue to reveal an increased use of networked communications. The development of these phenomena is in part, due to the inexpensive and accessible nature of new technologies. Thus, without understanding the significance of the nexus between human trafficking and technology, countries will not be able to adequately address it.

Therefore, I explored the two overarching aspects of human trafficking – how technology facilitates and how technology is being used to combat it. The main finding of this research is that the use of new technologies may not have increased trafficking for sexual exploitation of people due to a lack of data but it has undoubtedly facilitated the illicit activities surrounding human trafficking for sexual exploitation and introduced new ways to carry out these actions. Indeed, new technologies are largely exploited as they provide criminals new, efficient and anonymous ways of carrying out illicit acts and to promote and sell images or services.

In addition, this research has shown that technology can be used to better fight against traffickers or to help the victims. More specifically, this research can help governments understand and counter the significant obstacles that trafficking has across numerous countries and what methods are most effective in combating.

At last, but not in list, to minimize the misuse of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons, and to maximize the value of technology-based solutions to this crime, while ensuring ethical considerations are fully addressed, following are some recommendations for all actors involved in the use of technology to combat trafficking:

- Expand partnerships and coalitions between various sectors and stakeholders including international and regional organizations, the public sector, survivors, civil

society, the private sector, and academia to enhance research, innovation, development and use of technology.

- Identify and address gaps in legal systems to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated trafficking, including in particular harmonizing laws and enhancing cross-border cooperation to address the transnational threats of technology-facilitated trafficking.

- Significantly expand data collection and research on the scope, scale, and nature of the misuse of technology to facilitate human trafficking, particularly on the Internet.

- Build expertise and capacity among practitioners across sectors to allow for maximum use of technology to combat trafficking.

- Support law enforcement in establishing a presence in the online world, conducting pro-active operations, seizing appropriate evidence, and using available counter-trafficking technology tools.

- Increase support for technology-based solutions to identifying trafficking victims and cases.

- Support policies and technology-based solutions that address the global scope of human trafficking, such as scalable, online prevention programming or data aggregation tools that facilitate large-scale information analysis in support of human trafficking investigations.

- Ensure that new initiatives in the anti-trafficking field do not duplicate existing efforts related to technology.

- Explore policy and operational solutions to address the misuse of technology platforms, including websites that can be used to facilitate human trafficking.

- Incorporate a gender-sensitive perspective when addressing the trafficking and technology nexus, including by addressing the continuum of violence against women and girls that occurs online, such as the use of sexual blackmail, harassment and the advertisements of sham marriages, as means of gender-based coercion and control that perpetuate trafficking in women and girls. The benefits provided by the developed technology should also be gender-sensitive, including by facilitating easy reporting and ensuring that victims have quick and effective recourse to assistance if they are targeted by repetitive abusive behavior on-line which places them at a greater risk of trafficking and exploitation.

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Appendix

Survey Questions:

Question 1: Have you ever heard the word – modern slavery / human trafficking?

The first item on the survey was have you ever heard the word – modern slavery / human trafficking. The participants had two options to select – "Yes" or "No". The response can be viewed in the following figure.

Q1: Have you ever heard the word – modern slavery / human trafficking?
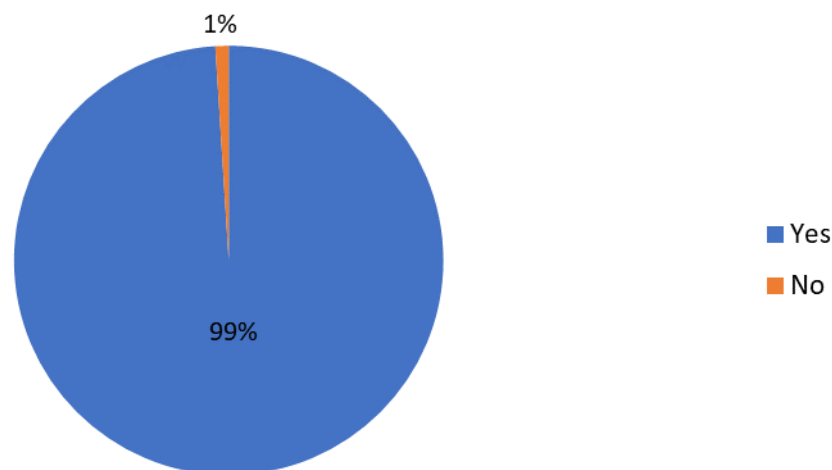
The responses to, "Yes," were 494 persons or 98.8% whereas those who selected, "No," numbered six which was 1.2% of all responses.

Question 2: In what diverse ways networked technologies are leveraged by human traffickers?

This question was deliberately placed here. It was assumed that most participants would say yes to the question that human trafficking is increasing with the usage of networked technologies. The goal through this question was to know what participants think about the diverse ways of networked technologies that can be leveraged by human traffickers. In this question, the participants had given four options:

a. Hiding identities and increasing anonymity online	36%
b. Facilitate easy and instant conversations	26.8%
c. Facilitating transactions, accessing new venues, and expanding the marketplace	15.8%
d. Expanding the means by which victims may be controlled and exploited	21.4%

From the 500 participants, according to 180 or 36% of the participants, "Hiding identities and increasing anonymity online," is the utmost benefit that the traffickers get benefitted from. That's why traffickers are increasingly leveraging networked technologies in trafficking. 26.8% or 134 participants believed networked technologies facilitate easy and instant conversations and that's why human trafficking gets promoted like never before. 21.4% or 107 participants see networked technologies as "Expanding the means by which victims may be controlled and exploited". While 79 participants or 15.8% believed networked technologies encourage human trafficking by facilitating transactions, accessing new venues, and expanding the marketplace.

Question 3: Which measures do you believe are more effective in combating human trafficking?

After participants shown that human trafficking is increasing with the usage of networked technologies and the diverse ways human traffickers can leverage using networked technologies, Question 3 asked participants which measures they believe are more effective in combating human trafficking. The question offered four options: severe criminal punishment, increase law enforcement capacity, raise public awareness, other.

Q3: Which measures do you believe are more effective in combating human trafficking?
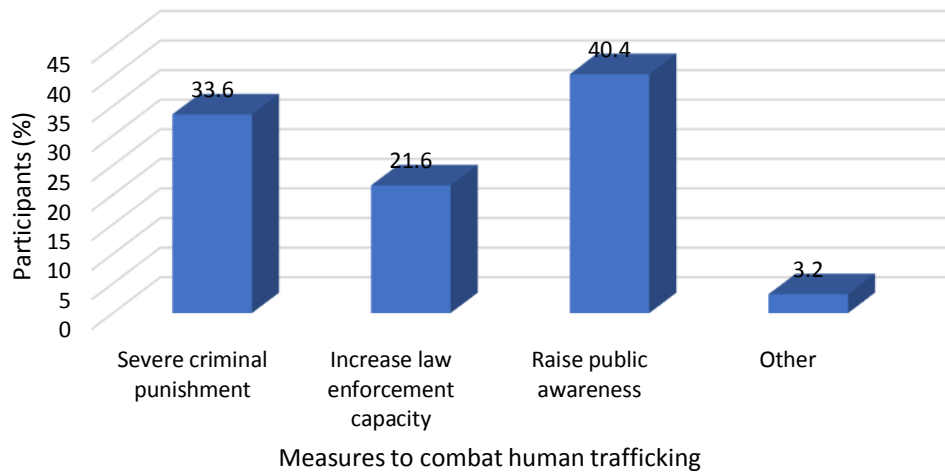
Amongst 500 participants, 6 participants skipped the question. From the remaining 494 participants, 168 or 33.6% of participants mentioned "severe criminal punishment" as the more effective measure in combating human trafficking. 21.6% or 108 participants cited "increase law enforcement capacity" as the more effective measure in combating human trafficking. The option of "raise public awareness" got the highest response with 40.4% or 202 participants declaring it as the more effective measure in combating human trafficking. While 16 or 3.2% of the participants choose "other" option.

Question 4: Are you willing to provide assistance in combating human trafficking?

Question 4 was to check the willingness of participants in combating human trafficking as they stated raise public awareness as the most effective measure in combating human trafficking. In this question, the participants had four options.

Q4: Are you willing to provide assistance in combating human trafficking?
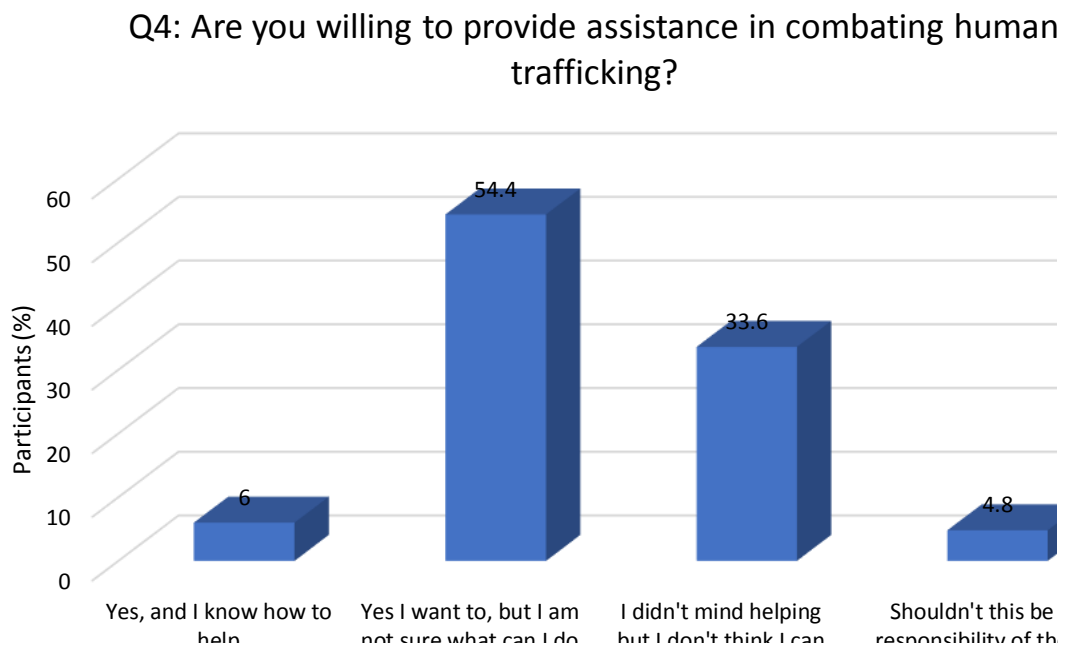
From the 500 participants, again 6 skipped the question. Now, from the 494 participants, 272 or 54.4% of participants mentioned "Yes I want to, but I am not sure what can I do," which is a good sign of willingness from the participants in combating human trafficking. The option of "I didn't mind helping but I don't think I can do much," got response from 168 or 33.6% of the participants. While the option of "Yes, and I know how to help," and "Shouldn't this be responsibility of the authorities?" received 6% and 4.8% votes with the responses from 30 and 24 participants, respectively.

Question 5: On a scale of 0-5, what do you think the current level of youth awareness on human trafficking is?

With the mentioning of raise public awareness view regarding what do they think about the current level of youth awareness on human trafficking is?

Q5: On a scale of 0-5, what do you think the current level of youth awareness on human trafficking is?
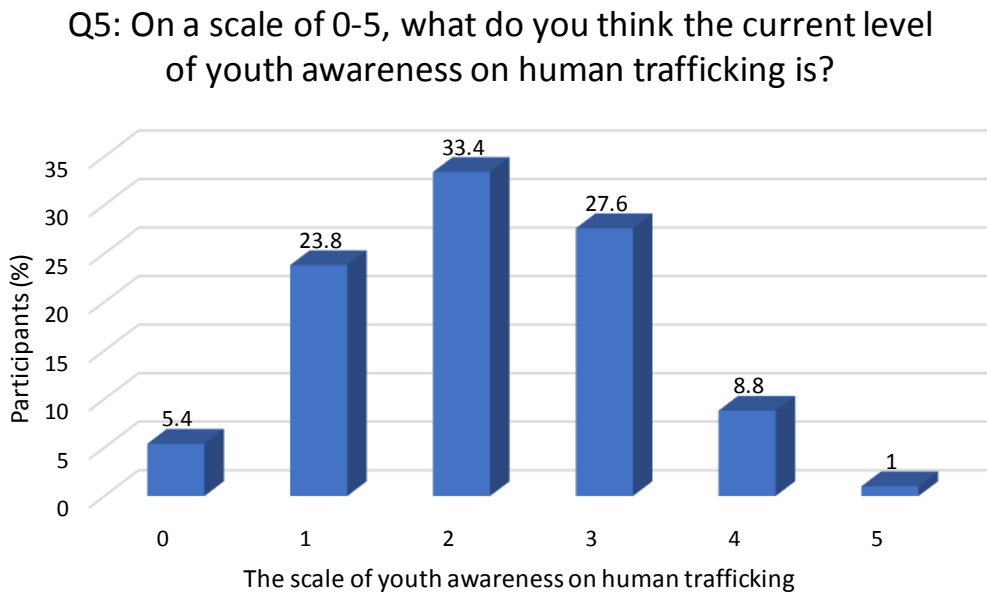
From the 500 participants, 33.4% or 167 participants think the current level of youth awareness on human trafficking is at the scale of 2, which is moderate level. 27.6% or 138 participants think the current level of youth awareness on human trafficking is at the scale of 3, which is good level. Surprisingly, only 1% or 5 participants ticked scale 5, which is an excellent level of awareness. On the contrary, 5.4% or 27 participants do agree that, the current level of youth awareness on human trafficking is at the scale of 0, which is very poor level. While 8.8% or 44 participants believe the current level of youth awareness on human trafficking is at the scale of 4, which is well level. And 23.8% or 119 participants believe the current level of youth awareness on human trafficking is at the scale of 1, which is poor level.